

IN THE CLAIMS:

A complete listing of the claims is set forth below.

1. **(Previously Presented)** A computer-implemented system facilitating negotiation of a standard for inter-enterprise collaboration between trading partners, comprising:

a storage medium having a set of one or more predefined meta-model elements stored therein, each of the one or more predefined meta-model elements is incorporated into a negotiated meta-model that describes an agreement between two or more enterprises as to collaborations between the two or more enterprises, each of the one or more meta-model element comprising data describing standard for collaboration between the two or more enterprises;

a storage medium having a meta-model negotiation service stored therein and configured to:

receive an indication that two or more enterprises wish to negotiate a standard for collaborations between the two or more enterprises;

provide the two or more enterprises access to the predefined set of one or more meta-model elements;

receive selections of one or more of the predefined meta-model elements and one or more meta-model elements that is newly defined by at least one of the enterprises for negotiation and incorporation into a negotiated meta-model, the negotiated meta-model describing an agreement between the enterprises as to collaborations between the two or more enterprises;

facilitate negotiation of the selected meta-model elements between the two or more enterprises;

incorporate negotiated meta-model elements into the negotiated meta-model for collaborations between the two or more enterprises; and

communicate the negotiated meta-model to the two or more enterprises for collaborations between the two or more enterprises according to the standard for collaborations in the negotiated meta-model.

2. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the meta-model negotiation service is configured to communicate the negotiated meta-model to collaboration software of the enterprises, the collaboration software configured to understand and collaborate according to the negotiated meta-model substantially automatically and substantially independent of modification to the collaboration software subsequent to negotiation of the meta-model.

3. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the agreement associated with the negotiated meta-model is machine-actionable at the collaboration software of the enterprises and reflects a private, differentiated standard for collaboration customized for particular needs of the enterprises.

4. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 1, wherein each of the one or more meta-model elements within the set comprise one or more of the following:

role types;

dimensions each comprising a supply chain element;

dimensionalities each comprising a combination of supply chain elements;

access of particular role types to particular dimensionalities;

collaborative transaction types relative to particular dimensionalities;

shared operations visible to the at least two enterprises; and

temporal structures of collaborative transactions.

5. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 4, wherein each of the one or more meta-model elements specifying a collaborative transaction type relative to a particular dimensionality comprises one or more of the following:

structure of the transaction;

data elements associated with the transaction;

a state model describing a life cycle of the transaction;

access that a role type has to data elements of the transaction relative to a state of the transaction;

actions that a role type can execute on the transaction relative to a state of the transaction;
and

whether the transaction is a system of record or whether synchronization must occur with another system of record.

6. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the set of the one or more meta-model elements is specified in a template.

7. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the meta-model negotiation service comprises a joint business planning network service (JBPNS).

8. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the meta-model negotiation service is associated with a network service provider through which the enterprises can negotiate the set of one or more meta-model elements.

9. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the negotiated meta-model is represented using extensible markup language (XML).

10. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein a collaboration comprises execution of a business process or transaction according to the negotiated meta-model.

11. **(Previously Presented)** A computer-implemented method of facilitating negotiation of a standard for inter-enterprise collaboration between trading partners, the method performed using one or more computers, the method comprising:

receiving, by a computer, an indication that two or more enterprises wish to negotiate a standard for collaborations between the two or more enterprises;

providing, by the computer, the two or more enterprises access to a set of one or more predefined meta-model elements, each of the one or more predefined meta-model elements is incorporated into a negotiated meta-model that describes an agreement between the two or more enterprises as to collaborations between the two or more enterprises, each meta-model element comprising data describing standard for collaboration between the two or more enterprises;

receiving, by the computer, selections of one or more of the predefined meta-model elements and one or more meta-model elements that is newly defined by at least one of the enterprises for negotiation and incorporation into a negotiated meta-model, the negotiated meta-model describing an agreement between the enterprises as to collaborations between the two or more enterprises;

facilitating, using the computer, negotiation of the selected meta-model elements between the two or more enterprises;

incorporating, by the computer, negotiated meta-model elements into the negotiated meta-model for collaborations between the enterprises; and

communicating, using the computer, the negotiated meta-model to the enterprises to enable collaborations between the enterprises according to the standard for collaborations reflected in the negotiated meta-model.

12. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 11, further comprising communicating the negotiated meta-model to collaboration software of the enterprises, the collaboration software configured to understand and collaborate according to the negotiated meta-model substantially automatically and substantially independent of modification to the collaboration software subsequent to negotiation of the meta-model.

13. **(Original)** The method of Claim 11, wherein the agreement associated with the negotiated meta-model is machine-actionable at the collaboration software of the enterprises and reflects a private, differentiated standard for collaboration customized for particular needs of the enterprises.

14. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 11, wherein each of the one or more meta-model elements within the set comprise one or more of the following:

role types;

dimensions each comprising a supply chain element;

dimensionalities each comprising a combination of supply chain elements;

access of particular role types to particular dimensionalities;

collaborative transaction types relative to particular dimensionalities;

shared operations visible to the at least two enterprises; and

temporal structures of collaborative transactions.

15. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 14, wherein each of the one or more meta-model elements specifying a collaborative transaction type relative to a particular dimensionality comprises one or more of the following:

structure of the transaction;

data elements associated with the transaction;

a state model describing a life cycle of the transaction;

access that a role type has to data elements of the transaction relative to a state of the transaction;

actions that a role type can execute on the transaction relative to a state of the transaction;
and

whether the transaction is a system of record or whether synchronization must occur with another system of record.

16. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 11, wherein the set of the one or more meta-model elements is specified in a template.

17. **(Original)** The method of Claim 11, wherein the meta-model negotiation service comprises a joint business planning network service (JBPNS).

18. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 11, wherein the meta-model negotiation service is associated with a network service provider through which the enterprises can negotiate the set of one or more meta-model elements.

19. **(Original)** The method of Claim 11, wherein the negotiated meta-model is represented using extensible markup language (XML).

20. **(Original)** The method of Claim 11, wherein a collaboration comprises execution of a business process or transaction according to the negotiated meta-model.

21. **(Previously Presented)** A computer-readable storage medium embodied with software facilitating negotiation of a standard for inter-enterprise collaboration between trading partners, the software when executed using one or more computer systems is configured to:

receive an indication that two or more enterprises wish to negotiate a standard for collaborations between the two or more enterprises;

provide the two or more enterprises access to a set of one or more predefined meta-model elements, each of the one or more predefined meta-model elements is incorporated into a negotiated meta-model that describes an agreement between the two or more enterprises as to collaborations between the two or more enterprises, each meta-model element comprising data describing standard for collaboration between the two or more enterprises;

receive selections of one or more of the predefined meta-model elements and one or more meta-model elements that is newly defined by at least one of the enterprises for negotiation and incorporation into a negotiated meta-model, the negotiated meta-model describing an agreement between the enterprises as to collaborations between the two or more enterprises;

facilitate negotiation of the selected meta-model elements between the two or more enterprises;

incorporate negotiated meta-model elements into the negotiated meta-model for collaborations between the enterprises; and

communicate the negotiated meta-model to the enterprises to enable collaborations between the enterprises according to the standard for collaborations reflected in the negotiated meta-model.

22. **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable storage media of Claim 21, further configured to communicate the negotiated meta-model to collaboration software of the enterprises, the collaboration software configured to understand and collaborate according to the negotiated meta-model substantially automatically and substantially independent of modification to the collaboration software subsequent to negotiation of the meta-model.

23. **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable storage media of Claim 21, wherein the agreement associated with the negotiated meta-model is machine-actionable at the collaboration software of the enterprises and reflects a private, differentiated standard for collaboration customized for particular needs of the enterprises.

24. **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable storage media of Claim 21, wherein each of the one or more meta-model elements within the set comprise one or more of the following:

role types;

dimensions each comprising a supply chain element;

dimensionalities each comprising a combination of supply chain elements;

access of particular role types to particular dimensionalities;

collaborative transaction types relative to particular dimensionalities;

shared operations visible to the at least two enterprises; and

temporal structures of collaborative transactions.

25. **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable storage media of Claim 24, wherein each of the one or more meta-model elements specifying a collaborative transaction type relative to a particular dimensionality comprises one or more of the following:

structure of the transaction;

data elements associated with the transaction;

a state model describing a life cycle of the transaction;

access that a role type has to data elements of the transaction relative to a state of the transaction;

actions that a role type can execute on the transaction relative to a state of the transaction;
and

whether the transaction is a system of record or whether synchronization must occur with another system of record.

26. **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable storage media of Claim 21, wherein the set of the one or more meta-model elements is specified in a template.

27. **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable storage media of Claim 21, wherein the meta-model negotiation service comprises a joint business planning network service (JBPNS).

28. **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable storage media of Claim 21, wherein the meta-model negotiation service is associated with a network service provider through which the enterprises can negotiate the set of one or more meta-model elements.

29. **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable storage media of Claim 21, wherein the negotiated meta-model is represented using extensible markup language (XML).

30. **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable storage media of Claim 21, wherein a collaboration comprises execution of a business process or transaction according to the negotiated meta-model.

31. **(Previously Presented)** A computer-implemented system facilitating negotiation of a standard for inter-enterprise collaboration between trading partners, comprising:

means for receiving an indication that two or more enterprises wish to negotiate a standard for collaborations between the two or more enterprises;

means for providing the two or more enterprises access to a set of one or more predefined meta-model elements, wherein the one or more predefined meta-model elements is incorporated into a negotiated meta-model that describes an agreement between the two or more enterprises as to collaborations between the two or more enterprises, each meta-model element comprising data describing standard for collaboration between the two or more enterprises;

means for receiving selections of one or more of the predefined meta-model elements and one or more meta-model elements that is newly defined by at least one of the enterprises for negotiation and incorporation into a negotiated meta-model, the negotiated meta-model describing an agreement between the enterprises as to collaborations between the two or more enterprises;

means for facilitating negotiation of the selected meta-model elements between the two or more enterprises;

means for incorporating negotiated meta-model elements into the negotiated meta-model for collaborations between the enterprises; and

means for communicating the negotiated meta-model to the enterprises to enable collaborations between the enterprises according to the standard for collaborations reflected in the negotiated meta-model.

32-50. **(Canceled)**